



County of El Dorado

Board of Supervisors
Chambers
330 Fair Lane
Placerville, CA 95667

Minutes - Draft

Veteran Affairs Commission

Todd Smith, District I - Alternate Robert Fischer

Roger Reynolds, District II - Alternate Donna Mullens-Becker

Christopher Vinton, District III - Alternate Seth Culver

Ken Welch, District IV - Alternate Tim Thompson

Gary Norton, District V - Alternate Thomas Millham

Jon Brown, VSO, Secretary Ex-Officio

*Courtney Frame, Recording Clerk of Veteran Affairs
Commission*

Wednesday, March 26, 2025

12:00 PM

<https://edcgov-us.zoom.us/j/83629551304>

**Special Meeting - 330 Fair Lane, Building A,
Board of Supervisors Chamber
Placerville, CA 95667**

Special Meeting: Pursuant to Government Code section 54956, the Chair of the Veteran Affairs Commission does hereby call a special meeting of the Veteran Affairs Commission, as more specifically set forth herein.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION INSTRUCTIONS: The Commission meeting room will be open to the public. The meeting will continue to be live-streamed via Zoom. By participating in this meeting, you acknowledge that you are being recorded.

To observe the live stream of the Commission meeting go to <https://edcgov-us.zoom.us/j/83629551304>. Members of the public may address the Commission in-person or via Zoom to make a public comment. The public should call into 530-621-7603 or 530-621-7610. The Meeting ID is 836 2955 1304. Please note you will not be able to join the live-stream until the posted meeting start time. If you are joining the meeting via zoom and wish to make a comment on an item, press the "raise hand" button. If you are joining the meeting by phone, press *9 to indicate a desire to make a comment. Speakers will be limited to 3 minutes.

Although the County strives to offer remote participation, be advised that remote Zoom participation is provided for convenience only. In the event of a technological malfunction, the only assurance of live comments being received by the Commission is to attend in person. Except for a noticed teleconference meeting, the Commission reserves the right to conduct the meeting without remote access if there is a malfunction.

If you choose not to observe the Commission meeting but wish to make a comment on a specific agenda item, please submit your comment in writing. You are encouraged to submit your comment in writing by 4:00 PM on the Tuesday before the meeting to ensure the Commission has adequate time to review. Please submit your comment to the Clerk of the Board at edc.cob@edcgov.us. Your comment will be placed into the record and forwarded to Commission members.

PROTOCOLS FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment will be received at designated periods as called by the Commission Chair.

Individuals will have three minutes to address the Commission. Except with the consent of the Commission, individuals shall be allowed to speak to an item only once.

Individual Commission members may ask clarifying questions but will not engage in substantive dialogue with persons providing input to the Commission.

If a person providing input to the Commission creates a disruption by refusing to follow Commission guidelines, the Commission Chair may take the following actions:

Step 1. Request the person adhere to Commission guidelines. If the person refuses, the Commission Chair may turn off the speaker's microphone.

Step 2. If the disruption continues, the Commission Chair may order a recess of the Commission meeting.

Step 3. If the disruption continues, the Commission Chair may order the removal of the person from the Commission meeting.

CALL TO ORDER - PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG - 12:00 PM**ROLL CALL**

Present: 8 - Commissioner Norton, Commissioner Welch, Alternate Mullens, Alternate Fischer, Chair Reynolds, Alternate Culver, Vice Chair Smith and Commissioner Vinton

Absent: 2 - Alternate Thompson and Commissioner Millham

Commissioner Vinton attended the meeting via Zoom.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS AND WELCOME

Commissioner Reynolds thanked everyone for attending. He expressed his appreciation with calling the special meeting in regards to the one agenda item.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

A motion to adopt the agenda was made by Commissioner Welch; seconded by Commissioner Smith.

Yes: 5 - Commissioner Norton, Commissioner Welch, Chair Reynolds, Vice Chair Smith and Commissioner Vinton

AGENDA ITEMS

25-0611

The Veterans Affairs Commission (VAC) in collaboration with Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) will review draft versions of the Veterans Monument Criteria, receive and consider input from the veteran community and identify and compose a single version of draft criteria to recommend for approval by the County Board of Supervisors (BOS), as directed by the BOS on 01/14/2025.

Timalynn Jaynes, Assistant Director of Human Services at HHSA, expressed gratitude to Commissioners Reynolds and Mullens-Becker for organizing this Special Meeting and thanked the veterans who have provided their input on the Monument Criteria to date. She recounted that at the March 13, 2025 VAC meeting, Commissioner Smith raised significant concerns about the Monument Criteria verbiage in all drafts, citing contradictions and insufficient information distributed, and that he made a motion to pause recommendations, opting instead to seek further guidance from the BOS. This motion passed with a unanimous 5-0 vote.

Jaynes emphasized that the BOS provided clear instructions for the veteran community to collaborate and resolve differences regarding the Criteria. She reminded the Commission of their responsibility to provide timely recommendations and adhere to their advisory role.

Highlighting procedural expectations, Jaynes outlined the VAC's standard practice of distributing Agendas and documents the Friday before meetings and stressed Commissioners' responsibility to prepare in advance. She noted that over the past two years, the Criteria had been agendized five times, yet a lack of engagement by the Commission and late-stage criticism of HHSA's work were deemed unacceptable.

Jaynes reinforced the expectations for public servants to act with integrity and accountability, upholding public trust as outlined in the Code of Ethics. She detailed the exhaustive efforts by her staff to review materials, collaborate with stakeholders, and meet with various County offices to meet the standards required to bring to the BOS. Despite facing unfounded accusations and defamation, her team remains committed to resolving this complex matter.

Jaynes addressed fiscal constraints, explaining that Veteran Services operates on General Funds and faces budget challenges. The Veteran Services Office cannot repeatedly bring this issue to the BOS without compromising resources and programs. She urged the Commission to be mindful of the financial impacts of their decisions and to avoid reducing vital services for the veteran community.

Finally, Jaynes encouraged the Commission and the veteran community to adopt a collaborative and solution-oriented approach. She stressed the importance of compromise and resolving the Monument Criteria issue to refocus efforts on the overarching mission: serving the veteran community effectively.

Next, Jaynes reviewed the Draft Revised Veterans Monument Criteria (Redline Version) with the Commission, highlighting the changes made and explaining the reasoning behind each of them.

Attachments: [El Dorado County Veterans Monument Criteria](#)

[Draft Revised Veterans Monument Criteria Redline Version](#)

[Draft Revised Veterans Monument Criteria Clean](#)

[Draft Revised Veterans Monument Criteria HHSA Recommendation](#)

[Merged Veterans Monument Criteria - Proposal 1 for VAC Special Meeting](#)

[Merged Veterans Monument Criteria - Proposal 2 for VAC Special Meeting](#)

[Public Comment VAC Rcvd 3-26-25](#)

Public Comment: K. Schoniger, B. Sweet, S. Culver, J. Babbit, P. Wolfe, L. McAdams, D. Mullens-Becker, D. Wolfson

The VAC reviewed the documents presented during the Special Meeting regarding the Veterans Monument Criteria, with assistance from Jaynes. The VAC conducted a line-by-line comparison of the documents, incorporating input from J. Babbit, P. Wolfe, K. Schoniger, and D. Mullens-Becker. They successfully reviewed half of the Criteria, including Areas of Recognition, Eligibility for Recognition through Military Honoraria, and Types of Military Honoraria. However, due to time constraints, they were unable to complete the review of all the documents.

A motion to table the discussion about the monument and continue it at the April 10 Veteran Affairs Commission Meeting was made by Commissioner Welch; seconded by Commissioner Smith.

Yes: 5 - Commissioner Norton, Commissioner Welch, Chair Reynolds, Vice Chair Smith and Commissioner Vinton

ADJOURNMENT - 1:58 PM